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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
12 June 1953

EGYPT PREPARED TO OFFER CONCESSIONS ON SUEZ CANAL BASE

1. The Egyptian Revolutionary Command Council is prepared to offer a written agreement that the Suez base will be available to "Egypt's allies and to the allies of Egypt's allies in case of land attack on the frontier of any Arab nation." The Egyptian ambassador gave this information orally to the Department of State on 10 June.

2. He also stated that Egypt would guarantee the shipment of British supplies from the Suez base anywhere, at anytime, at British discretion. Once agreement is reached, Egypt would publicly invite American and British experts to discuss military and economic plans.

3. The ambassador added that the council assured the Department of State that it will maintain quiet in Egypt "at least until" after the Bermuda conference to afford the United States favorable conditions to exert its influence for a settlement of the base question.

4. The ambassador's statements are the most definite yet made by Egypt on future availability of the Suez base and on Britain's right to dispose of base supplies.

5. Britain has stated its readiness to re-open the talks in response to any Egyptian initiative. However, it will not be satisfied with the right to return only in case of a land attack on the Arab states. In addition London will want a specific Egyptian statement on provisions for managing the Suez base.

State Department review completed

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